

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Brownfields Redevelopment
Sub-Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 (12 pm)
888-494-4032
Access code: 6552044636

- I. Welcome**
Kimberly Wasserman – Chairman, EJ Commission
- II. Introductions**
A. Teleconference
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO
 - Ken Page, IEPA
 - Mary McDonald, IEPA
 - Millard Driskell, Prince Grand Lodge of IL
 - Veronica Kyle, Faith in Place
 - Alec Messina, IERG
 - Chris Pressnall, IEPA
- III. Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve agenda with the addition of the approval of Dec 13, 2014 minutes –
Millard Driskell
Second – Alec Messina
Motion carried
- IV. Subcommittee Structure**
A. Election of a subcommittee Chairman
- Wasserman- Stated that Cheryl Johnson volunteered to be subcommittee Chairwoman in the last meeting. She suggested that the subcommittee table the selection of a chairperson until Cheryl Johnson joins the call or until the next conference call.
- V. Old Business**
- Wasserman- Stated that she is supportive of the recommendations that came from Keith Harley. She also stated that she would like to start a conversation with IL EPA around Brownfields Redevelopment.
 - Driskell- Asked if we had a summary of what communities want from us and how do we start engagement with communities.
 - Wasserman- Stated that we asked People for Community Recovery (PCR) for that information but we don't have anyone on the call from PCR.
 - Driskell- Asked whether this was directed solely at PCR's project or state of Illinois as a whole.

- Wasserman- Stated that the request was specific to PCR and to IL EPA in regard to public participation in their Brownfields Program.
- Page- Stated that the agency had a discussion on Keith Harley's comments
- Kyle- Stated that over the holidays she glanced at the links that Ken Page sent out about IL EPA's Brownfields Program. She also stated that they contained valuable information that will help keep the group informed.
- Wasserman- Stated that she would like schedule a call with someone from IL EPA to discuss what community involvement looks like in the Brownfields Redevelopment program. She also stated that a presentation by IL EPA would help the group shape their recommendations.
- Wasserman- Asked the group if it would be helpful to engage IL EPA once the subcommittee has had a chance to read the documents that Ken Page send out.
- Messina- Stated that it would be helpful to hear from the agency to see what is in place. He also stated that before we start adding we should get a good understanding of what is already in place because they are doing a lot already.
- Driskell- Stated this can give us a better understanding as to what they have done and the results. He also stated that specifically he would like to know their results and how they arrived at them.
- Kyle- Stated that we want to enhance what already exists around community education and engagement.
- Messina- Stated that he would like to have dialogue with the agency about what is in place and what they think is working well. He also stated that we need to determine the best way to alert communities about resources that they don't know about.
- Driskell- Asked if the agency can explain the Revolving Loan Fund and give us a handle on it. He also stated that if the agency is on the next call we can zero in on specific topics.
- Wasserman- Stated that she would like to schedule a call with the Brownfields division of IL EPA. She also stated that she would like to know what the current standards are that IL EPA follows in regard to community engagement and education.
- Wasserman- Stated that when we have this information we can engage in conversation to discuss needs that must be filled. She also stated that once the group reads over the documents that Ken Page sent out we can pinpoint what we want to discuss with IL EPA.
- Messina- Stated that making all these tools readily available is very important. He also stated that when you drill down to specifics it can help the Commission make recommendations to the agency rather than speaking in generalities.
- Messina- Stated that we don't want a Brownfields 101 course. He also stated that we want the substance of public participation so we can determine where there are spaces that we can help.
- Page- Asked whether this presentation should take place at a Commission meeting or a Brownfields Subcommittee meeting.

- Wasserman- Stated that we will have the presentation on a subcommittee call but will open it up to the entire Commission.
- Kyle- Stated that the Brownfields subcommittee needs to get a handle on it before presenting it to the Commission. She also stated that the subcommittee has a greater responsibility to understand what is going on with brownfields.
- Kyle- Asked how do we know that we are making an impact in communities. She also asked how do we find out what someone did with the knowledge.
- Wasserman- Stated that she is excited to connect with PCR and use this as an on the ground experiment to see whether we are doing things correctly. She also stated that we will work with other organizations to see if our work is working for people on the ground.
- Page- Stated that he will speak to his colleagues within the agency and get the presentation together.
- Page- Stated that this discussion has to also deal with developers and local government and how communities can be involved in discussion with these entities. He also stated that we have to make resources available for communities so that they can participate in the process of converting brownfields to open spaces for the community.
- Wasserman- Stated that it would be beneficial to speak with IL EPA and get the lay of the land first and then decide whether to expand the conversation to other players.
- Page- Stated that he will speak with the Brownfields and Site Remediation programs to pull together a presentation for the subcommittee.
- Driskell- Stated that it would be helpful to hear the success stories and find out what programs worked.
- Page- Stated that we will share what we discussed during this meeting with the Brownfields and Site Remediation program and come back to the group with dates.
- Wasserman- Stated that honesty about what doesn't work and finding spaces where they think they need help would be beneficial.

Action Items

- IL EPA will share conversation from this meeting with the Brownfields program, Site Remediation program, and Acting Bureau of Land Chief in order to put together a presentation for the next call.
- Brownfields subcommittee members will make a commitment to review program documents and come to the next call with questions for IL EPA.

VI. Discussions/Presentations:
None

VII. Next meeting date and location

We will wait to hear from Ken Page before setting a date for the next call.

VIII. Adjournment

12:45 p.m.

DRAFT